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State Dept, and "Validity" procedure, and NIE, a  
Indochina

15 July 1954

Mr. Allan Evans  
Director  
Office of Intelligence Research  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Allan:

Yours of 6 July has been read and pondered with care. A chance meeting with Henry Owen today reminded me that I had not acknowledged it.

No question but that your proposal is a good one. I thoroughly agree that we should do some work along this line. Also no question but that it is a hard job which we should thoroughly think out before embarking upon. I have accordingly instructed a couple of the senior staff aids to work out some sort of rationale which, among other things, will not leave us open to the charge of having quoted out of context and which also will permit us to signalize the few places where we have been wrong.

Perhaps you would like to discuss this rationale informally with some of the Board members when we get it done. We'd love to have you.

Sincerely yours,

SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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